

IN THE CLAIMS

Please make the following claim substitutions:

1. (Currently amended) A method of format detection for information having an information rate and received over a communication channel of a communication system, the method comprising the steps of:

~~determining the format of the received information from the information rate and a measurement of a~~ measuring the time period during which the information was received at a power level that is equal to or above a defined threshold ~~whereby wherein~~ the time period is measured by detecting transitions in the power level of ~~symbols~~ carrying the received information, and

calculating the amount of information in said received information during the measured time period as a function of said information rate and said measured time period,

the amount of information received during the measured time period being dependent on which of a plurality of information formats is the format of said received information, and said method further comprising determining the format of said received information from said calculated amount of information.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~where~~ wherein said transitions are detected by the time period is measured from a sliding window and a ratio of measured average power values for the sliding window

a) measuring the average power of a received signal carrying said information over a first time window of a certain time width,

b) measuring the average power of said received signal over a plurality of second time windows of said certain time width, each said second time window beginning at a respective time after the start of said first time window,

c) comparing the power measured in step a with each of the powers measured in step b, and

d) identifying the occurrence of said transitions as a function of the results of said comparing.

1 3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the said communication channel
2 is a guiding channel, wherein said guiding channel contains blocks of data with a unique
3 format, and wherein the format of other channels is associated with said unique format
4 of said guiding channel and the received information is extracted from the guiding
5 channel.

1 4. (Currently amended) A method of format detection for information having an
2 information rate and received over a communication channel of a communication
3 system, the method comprising the step of:

4 determining the format of the received information from the information rate and
5 a measurement of a time period during which the information was received at a power
6 level that is equal to or above a defined threshold wherein the time period is measured
7 by detecting transitions in the power level of symbols carrying the information,

8 wherein the communication channel is a guiding channel and the received
9 information is extracted from the guiding channel, and

10 The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of providing a lookup table
11 containing determining the format of information in other channels based on the format
12 of said guiding channel, wherein M a list of M information size values information blocks
13 of defined size for the said guiding channel are associated with M and lists of M
14 information size values information blocks of defined size for each of said other
15 channels where M is an integer.

1 5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4 where the said communication system is
2 a channel carries 3GPP compliant UTMS communication system signals.

1 6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4 where wherein the step of determining
2 the said format of the said received information comprises the steps of:
3 calculating an estimated information size value for information extracted from the said
4 guiding channel by multiplying the said information rate ~~to~~ by said the measured time
5 period;

6 selecting at least one information size value candidate from ~~the list of~~ M information size
7 values for the said guiding channel based on the calculated estimated information size
8 value; and
9 applying the selected candidates to an algorithm for determining an actual information
10 size value of the said information extracted from the said guiding channel when the said
11 estimated information size value is not equal to any of the said M information size
12 values ~~in the list~~ for the said guiding channel.

1 7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6 ~~where~~ wherein the step of calculating an
2 estimated information size value further comprises ~~the step of~~ rounding off the said
3 calculated information size value to a nearest integer value.

1 8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6 ~~where~~ wherein the format of the
2 extracted information is determined from the said calculated estimated information size
3 value when that value is equal to one of the said M information size values ~~in the list~~ for
4 the said guiding channel.

5 9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6 ~~where~~ wherein the step of applying the
6 selected candidates to an said algorithm for determining an actual information size
7 value comprises ~~the step of~~ performing an error correcting decode operation on the
8 said extracted information that yields a result on which a tail bit test and an error
9 detecting decode operation are performed.

10 10. (New) The method of claim 3 wherein the transitions in said power level occurs at
11 the beginning and end of received blocks of data.

1 11. (New) A method for use in a system in which information is communicated
2 between communicating entities via a plurality of signals each transmitted
3 over respective one of a plurality of channels using a selected one of a
4 plurality of formats, there being for each format a respective information block
5 size for each of said channels, the power of the signal transmitted over at
6 least a particular one of said channels, serving as a guiding channel, being
7 equal to or above a defined threshold when a block is being transmitted over

8 that channel, the method comprising:

9 identifying said selected format in response to a determination of the

10 block size being used in said guiding channel, and

11 determining the block size being used in the others of said channels

12 based on the identified format,

13 CHARACTERIZED IN THAT the determination of the block size being

14 used in said guiding channel is made by measuring the time period during which at least

15 a complete one of said blocks of information was received over said guiding channel by

16 detecting transitions in the power level of the signal on that channel, and

17 determining said block size as a function of said information rate and

18 said measured time period.

1 12. (New) The invention of claim 11 wherein said determining said block size

2 as a function of said information rate and said measured time period

3 comprises:

4 calculating an estimated block size by multiplying said information rate

5 by said measured time period;

6 selecting at least one block size candidate from among the block sizes

7 specified by said formats for said guiding channel, said selecting being based

8 on said estimated block size; and

9 identifying as the actual block size being used in said guiding channel

10 by attempting to decode information communicated in said guiding channel

11 utilizing the block size candidates and determining which of said block size

12 candidates gives rise to a correct decode.

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